MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Carnforth Urban District Council

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF

HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1967

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Carnforth Urban District Council

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1967

To the Chairman and Members of the
Carnforth Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present this Annual Report on the Health and sanitary conditions of the Urban District, for the year ending 31st December, 1967. The layout and contents are in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health.

Early this present year, Dr. R. W. Farquhar, who had been your Medical Officer of Health for many years, died very suddenly. It is hard to mention his outstanding work in the field of Public Health and Preventive Medicine without the use of superlatives, but he devoted his life to helping people and has given this area a service probably second to none.

The estimated population has again risen, and there was a decrease of 21 in the number of deaths. As is generally the case, the major cause of death was Coronary Artery disease. This is one of our modern epidemics, and along with road accidents, smoking and over-eating, should exercise the minds of our research workers.

Yet again, it is a pleasure to record that there were no deaths of mothers associated with childbirth—the last occurring in 1954. Similarly for the fourth successive year, no baby has died before reaching its first birthday.

There were 22 cases of measles notified to the department. This disease is now one of the more serious conditions that can affect children—it has a low but definite mortality rate, but more important it has a high morbidity rate, leaving medical complications that can affect a child's life for ever. It was thus, welcome

news to hear that it is now possible to offer protection against measles, by a single immunisation.

I have always maintained that a great deal of physical and mental ill health is due to an inbalance between man and his environment. The maintenance of perfect living conditions remains one of our important functions—the inspection and supervision of pure water supplies, sewage, refuse collection, the repair or clearance of unfit houses, food hygiene, etc. The long awaited combined sewage disposal scheme to serve Carnforth and parts of Lancaster Rural District has been approved by the Ministry and work is now about to begin.

One of the more recent Acts of Parliament has been that laying down minimum standards under which staff should be permitted to work in Shops and Offices. This large group of people have not hitherto had their own Act, and it has been much overdue, particularly, as they do tend to work in isolation, and are perhaps the least vocal of employees.

I am sure that Dr. Farquhar would have wished to acknowledge once again, the good work of his colleagues in the Public Health Department, and to thank members of the Council for their support and interest.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. V. DYER,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

AREA of the District (Acres)	1,504
POPULATION (Census 1931)	3,139
„ (Census 1951)	3,388
„ (Census 1961)	4,113
„ (Registrar General's Estimate Mid/1967	4,180
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (1951)	1,095
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (1967)	1,400
RATEABLE VALUE	£107,995
SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE	£398

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SOCIAL CONDITIONS INCLUDING CHIEF OCCUPATIONS OF INHABITANTS

The social conditions of the District are very satisfactory. The Chief Industries carried on in the area are Railways, Agriculture, Light Engineering, Pre-Cast Concrete Products and Gravel Workings.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS—1967

	Males	Females	Total
LIVE BIRTHS (Legitimate)	23	33	56
(Illegitimate)	3	—	3
TOTAL	26	33	59
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population			14.1
Adjusted Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population			14.7
STILL BIRTHS—No. Registered	1	—	1
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births			17
DEATHS (All Causes) No. registered	18	13	31
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population			7.4
Adjusted Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population			8.5
DEATHS FROM CERTAIN SPECIFIED CAUSES :—			
Heart Disease (all forms)	12	6	18
Cancer (all forms)	5	6	11
Accidents (all forms)	2	1	3
Respiratory Tuberculosis	—	—	Nil
DEATHS FROM MATERNAL CAUSES			Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births			Nil
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE	—	—	Nil
Total Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	—	—	Nil
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS OF AGE			Nil
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	—	—	Nil
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 WEEK OF AGE			Nil
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births			Nil
STILL BIRTHS PLUS FIRST WEEK DEATHS	—	—	1
Perinatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births ...			17

TABLE SHOWING CLASSIFICATION OF CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1967

	M	F	Total
Tuberculosis	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm of stomach	1	—	1
Malignant neoplasm of lung etc.	1	—	1
Malignant neoplasm of breast	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm of uterus	—	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	1	3	4
Diabetes	—	—	—
Vascular lesions of the nervous system ...	3	2	5
Coronary disease, angina	6	5	11
Hypertension with heart disease	1	—	1
Other heart diseases	4	2	6
Other circulatory diseases	—	—	—
Influenza	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—
Bronchitis	1	—	1
Other diseases of respiratory system ...	—	—	—
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	—	—	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	—	—	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	—	—	—
Motor vehicle accidents	—	—	—
All other accidents	—	—	—
Suicide	—	—	—
	18	13	31

COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1967 AND THE PERIOD 1962-66

	Live births		Deaths (all causes)		Still Births		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality			
									Total		Neo-natal	
	No. registered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. registered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. registered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths registered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths registered	Rate per 1,000 live births	No. of deaths registered	Rate per 1,000 live births
Year 1967	59	*14.1	33	7.4	1	17	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
„ 1966	59	*14.1	52	12.4	1	16.6	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
„ 1965	63	15.2	41	9.9	2	30.7	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
„ 1964	64	15.2	37	8.8	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
„ 1963	70	17.2	42	10.3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	14.3	1	14.3
„ 1962	62	15.2	55	13.5	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	16.1	1	16.1
Average 1962-66		15.4		11.0		9.5		Nil		6.1		6.1

*1967 Adjusted live birth rate (comparability factor 0.85) = 14.7
Adjusted death rate (comparability factor 0.76) = 8.5

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

In sections C and D of the report full details will be found relating to infectious diseases and environmental health within the Carnforth Urban District, for which services the Council are directly responsible.

The present section is related to those health services which concern mainly the personal health and welfare of the individual rather than public health and the community. Divisional Health Committee No. 2 of the Lancashire County Council, on which committee your Council has one representative, is responsible for the day-to-day administration of the following services, available to the inhabitants of Carnforth as well as to those of neighbouring districts.

(1) Domiciliary Services.

For the benefit of residents in the area two district nurse/midwives are resident in Carnforth, others being available nearby at Silverdale and Bolton-le-Sands. Six health visitors, who are also trained nurses, are centred on the School Clinic in Market Street. Several Home Helps are resident in Carnforth and Warton.

(2) Care of Mothers and Young Children.

This service is closely correlated with the domiciliary midwifery, health visiting and domestic help services, by which means the mother can receive advice and care for herself and her child as well as help in the home during and after her confinement.

During 1967 the average attendance at the Carnforth child welfare centre was 58 children per weekly session.

(3) Combined School Clinic and Child Welfare Centre.

At 21 Market Street, Carnforth, in addition to the child welfare session on Tuesday afternoons (2—4 p.m.) a minor ailment clinic for school children is held on Friday mornings (9-30—11-30 a.m.). An eye clinic is held on alternate Wednesday mornings, and a dental clinic on each Tuesday and Thursday all day. A clinic is held every Thursday afternoon at which expectant mothers attend for relaxation, exercises and the teaching of mothercraft.

(4) **Immunisation and Vaccination.**

Immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, measles and vaccination against smallpox are free services, available either from the family doctor or through the school clinic. Since 1956 vaccination against poliomyelitis and tuberculosis has also been available to children in certain age groups.

(5) **Ambulance Service.**

The Carnforth area is served by ambulances based on the Lancaster and Morecambe stations.

(6) **Other Services.**

Certain other services are organised on a divisional basis, without allocation of staff to particular areas. Thus 5 mental health workers and one tuberculosis health visitor cover the whole division. The arrangements for sending persons recovering from illness to convalescent homes are made through the Divisional Health Office, Lancaster.

(7) **Welfare Services—National Assistance Act, 1948.**

The following welfare services are also administered by the Divisional Health Committee :—

(a) Residential Accommodation : For persons in need of care and attention not otherwise available to them accommodation is provided at Dolphinlee, The Laurels, Fair Elms and Beaumont View at Lancaster ; at the Empress Hostel, Morecambe ; Moor Platt and The Hermitage at Caton ; Slyne House at Slyne-with-Hest.

(b) Temporary Accommodation : In case of urgent need, e.g. fire, flood or eviction, temporary shelter is provided by arrangement with the County Medical Officer of Health.

(c) Handicapped Persons : For persons who are blind, deaf, or otherwise substantially and permanently handicapped, certain welfare services and facilities are made available, either through the agency of voluntary organisations or directly by the County Council.

(d) Homes for Disabled and/or Old Persons: There are seven homes of this nature in the division, all managed by voluntary/or private bodies. These are registered and inspected regularly by the divisional medical staff.

(8) **Laboratory Facilities.**

The bacteriological examination of milk, water and specimens in connection with infectious diseases is carried out by Dr. Robertson and his staff at the Public Health Laboratory, Preston. Samples of water for chemical examination are sent to the Public Analyst at Preston. Analysis of food and drugs is carried out under the direction of the Lancashire County Council.

(9) **Treatment Centres and Clinics.**

The following clinics are administered by the North Lancashire and South Westmorland Hospital Management Committee:—

(a) Tuberculosis :—Chest Clinic, Beaumont Hospital, Lancaster.

(b) Venereal Diseases :—Special Treatment Centre, Royal Lancaster Infirmary.

(c) Deaf Aid Clinic :—A session for the provision of batteries and cords for hearing aids is held at 21, Market Street, Carnforth, on the first Friday of each month.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) CASES NOTIFIED DURING 1967

		Age Periods-Years								
Disease	Cases	0-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65- and over
Measles	22	-	4	9	8	-	1	-	-	-
Dysentry	9	-	-	1	4	-	1	3	-	-
Total Cases	31	-	4	10	12	-	2	3	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS

During 1967 one case of respiratory tuberculosis was notified but no deaths from this disease were recorded.

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

Since 1948 only one case of diphtheria has been notified in Carnforth. The young mothers of to-day do not realise the danger of this disease but localised outbreaks still occur sporadically in this country. The present immunisation and vaccination programme now affords a considerable degree of protection against seven diseases—diptheria, whooping cough, tetanus, poliomyelitis, measles, tuberculosis and smallpox, and it is important that every advantage be taken of this service so as to ensure a high level of immunity in the population.

In the following table the numbers of Carnforth children immunised against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus in the last ten years are compared.

IMMUNISATION IN CARNFORTH — 1958-1967

Number of individuals, aged 0-15 years, who completed a full course of primary immunisation

In Year	Diphtheria	Whooping Cough	Tetanus
1958	80	76	67
1959	81	79	75
1960	103	94	99
1961	63	58	63
1962	61	60	61
1963	65	56	66
1964	85	78	93
1965	54	47	58
1966	67	60	69
1967	69	41	70

Number of individuals, aged 0-15 years, who were given a re-inforcement injection

In Year	Diphtheria	Whooping Cough	Tetanus
1958	135	36	3
1959	141	19	5
1960	138	12	36
1961	138	18	78
1962	155	15	101
1963	182	18	102
1964	90	14	67
1965	140	13	97
1966	138	9	125
1967	189	10	197

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

Water, abundant in quantity, is supplied from the Lune Valley Water Board reservoir situated at Withnets, which has a capacity of 52 million gallons. It is chlorinated and filtered. 31 samples were submitted by the Local Authority for bacteriological analysis, and 23 were reported to be highly satisfactory, 8 unsatisfactory. Eight samples were submitted for chemical analysis by a Public Analyst and two of the samples were found to be unsatisfactory.

In addition, reports of 27 samples taken by the board indicate 14 as satisfactory and 13 as unsatisfactory. The variation of quality of samples taken is a matter which I have already raised with the Water Board, and it would appear that there is need for some further action, so as to ensure a continuity of bacteriologically sound supplies.

With the exception of 5 private houses and 2 farm houses, all permanent dwellings within the area are connected to the public water supply. In the case of 3 of the 5 private houses and one farm early mains connections are expected and the two remaining have a pure and wholesome supply of well water.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The sewerage of the whole area is by gravity. In general it is the "combined" system, though a "separate" system has been introduced to deal with a site of approximately 140 houses, whereby rainwater from roofs and roads is discharged to an open watercourse in order to avoid any additional loading of the Highfield and Kellet Road sewers.

The main portion of the town, which includes the area which has been used for post-war housing expansion, is sewered to a tank alongside the River Keer (a tidal stream) and after settling in this tank the effluent is subject to discharge. Two other sewage disposal plants deal with the remaining portion of the district (the Crag Bank area), each discharging the effluent into adjacent streams after sedimentation and filtration. The tidal tank referred to above undertakes no purification whatever, and is unsuitable as a disposal unit.

The Joint Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme with Lancaster Rural District Council has now been approved by the Ministry and it is expected that the Contractor will commence the scheme in October, 1968.

PROVISION OF WATER CLOSETS, ETC.

With the exception of six premises, all dwellings (inclusive of farms) within the area have fresh water closets.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

The Council continue to tip at Cote Stones by agreement with the Lancaster Rural District Council and arrangements are very satisfactory to the Council.

A weekly collection of domestic refuse is made and trade refuse is collected from various premises. Approximately 1,720 bins per week are dealt with.

HOUSING.

During 1967, 15 houses have been built by private enterprise. Housing development in the area is very much confined at present owing to the embargo placed on future development by the Council approximately 4 years ago, because of the inability to cope with increased sewerage in our existing sewerage disposal plants.

It is expected, however, that subject to the construction of new sewerage disposal works as proposed, a further 100 acres of land within the Urban district would be released for development.

The existing housing facilities are made up as follows :—

676 modern type.
458 cottage type
286 parlour type.

Further progress in house improvements has been made by 'Standard" grants approved by the Local Authority, 15 having been granted during the year. In addition 2 "Discretionary" Grants have been made.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS.

No. of premises inspected	139
Defects discovered	48
Defects remedied	43
Informal Notices served	12
Statutory Notices served	1

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are none in the area.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS AND FOOD PREMISES.

The three butchers in the area are obtaining carcase meat and offal from wholesale distributors outside Carnforth. It is inspected before despatch and as there are no local slaughterhouses within the area the problem of meat inspection at time of slaughter of animals does not arise.

Small amounts of tinned foods, surrendered by shopkeepers, i.e., 3 cwt. 76 lbs. in total were condemned as unfit for human consumption and certificates given accordingly.

MILK SUPPLY.

Action taken with regard to the administration of the Milk and Dairies Acts and Regulations.

The Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949—

No. of distributors registered by the L.A. and operating from :—

(a) Dairies in the district	4
(b) Shops in the district other than dairies	4
(c) Premises outside the district	3

Action taken by the L.A. in relation to samples taken within the district.

A. Samples for Biological Examination 1967

	No. of Samples Submitted	RESULTS Positive	Negative	No result
RESULTS	27			
(1) Tuberculosis		Nil	Nil	Nil
(2) Brucellosis—Ring Test		1	25	Nil
(3) Brucellosis—Culture Test		Nil	1	Nil
(4) Brucellosis—Biological Test		Nil	Nil	Nil

B. Samples for Statutory Test

	No. of Samples	RESULTS Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Void Samples
Raw Milk				
(1) Methylene Blue Test	21	18	3	Nil
Heat Treated Milk				
(1) Methylene Blue Test	2	2	Nil	Nil
(2) Phosphatase Test	2	2	Nil	Nil
(3) Turbidity Test	3	3	Nil	Nil

Results of Ministry Investigations	Nil
No. of herds examined by veterinary inspectors	Nil
No. of cases where animals seized under Tuberculosis Order, 1938	Nil
No. of animals seized	Nil
No. of cases reported negative where animals had been seized	Nil
No. of cases reported negative, no animals seized	Nil
Action taken under Regulation 19 of the M. and D. Regulations, 1949	None necessary
Action taken under Regulation 20 of the M. and D. Regulations, 1949	None necessary

ICE CREAM.

There are no premises in the district manufacturing ice cream by the heat treatment process and the 17 premises registered for the sale of ice cream are satisfactory for the purpose.

FOOD POISONING.

There have been no outbreaks of food poisoning within the Urban District during the year.

RODENT CONTROL.

The Council's area has been little affected by rats or mice and no notices have been required to enforce disinfestation.

The Sewers have shown themselves only slightly infested on test baiting. The sewage disposal works are occasionally found infested, but they are treated when necessary and kept under control.

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS.

There are none in the area.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

There are 22 in number and are of a small type. No conditions have been found calling for action and no reports received of non-compliance with the Act.

SHOPS AND OFFICES ACT, 1963

	Class of Premises				
	Offices	Retail Shops	Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	Catering establishments open to public canteens	Fuel Storage Depots
(i) No. of registered premises at end of year	11	32	1	5	1
(ii) No. of registered premises receiving a general inspection during year	5	22	1	5	1

No. of visits of all kinds by inspectors to registered premises ... 48

Details of any prosecutions during year ... ... None

CARAVANS

There are five licensed sites within the urban district, 1 of which is suitable for holiday accommodation only and 4 which are used for permanent residential accommodation.

The sites are generally satisfactory and no nuisances occurred during the year.

Mayoh Press Ltd., Back Market Street, Carnforth, Lancs.